

CLAIMS

1. A liquid water-softening composition comprising:
 - a) at least one water-softening active; and
 - b) an organic solvent;said composition containing less than 35 wt% water.
2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one water-softening active is an acid.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the at least one water-softening active is a carboxylic acid.
4. A composition according to claim 2 or 3 wherein the acid is partly neutralised.
5. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein at least one water-softening active is a water-softening polymer.
6. A composition according to claim 5 wherein the water-softening polymer is a polycarboxylic acid polymer
7. A composition according to claim 6 wherein the polycarboxylic acid polymer is a polyacrylic polymer.
8. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the acid water-softening active is partly neutralised by an organic base.
9. A composition according to claim 8 wherein the acid water-softening active that is neutralised is citric

acid.

10. A composition according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the organic base is an alkanolamine.
- 5 11. A composition according to claim 10 in which the alkanolamine is monoethanolamine, diethanolamine or triethanolamine.
- 10 12. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the organic solvent is a glycol, glycolether glycerine, or an alcohol or a mixture thereof.
- 15 13. A composition according to claim 12 wherein the organic solvent is polyethylene glycol, glycerine, monopropylene glycol or ethanol.
- 20 14. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims which contains less than 15wt% of free water.
15. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims that is anhydrous.
- 25 16. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims which comprises from 10 to 70 wt% of organic solvent.
- 30 17. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims which has a pH when measured as a 5%wt solution in deionised water at 20°C of less than 9, ideally 4.0 to 6.0.
- 35 18. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims which contains a monomeric polycarboxylic

acid.

19. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims which has a viscosity of 500 to 1,000,000cps measured using a Brookfield viscometer with spindle S31 at 12 RPM and 20°C.
20. A composition according to claim 18 wherein the monomeric polycarboxylic acid is citric acid.
21. A water-soluble container containing a composition as defined in any one of the preceding claims.
22. A water-soluble container containing a liquid water-softening composition comprising:
a) at least one water-softening active;
b) an organic solvent;
c) an electrolyte; and
said composition containing greater than 35 wt% water.
23. A container according to claim 19 or claim 20 which comprises a thermoformed or injection moulded water-soluble polymer.
24. A container according to any one of claims 21 to 23 wherein the water-soluble polymer is a poly (vinyl alcohol) or gelatin.